

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00043 121028Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----121037Z 015790 /15
R 121007Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5573

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUXEMBOURG 0043

EXDIS

FOR S/CL

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, LU
SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER THORN'S REQUEST TO MEET VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT
MONDALE DURING HIS EUROPEAN VISIT

1. AT A LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF PRIME MINISTER THORN GIVEN BY THE
AMERICAN
BUSINESSMEN'S CLUB OF LUXEMBOURG, THORN ASKED ME PRIVATELY IF I
WOULD QUERY WASHINGTON TO FIND OUT IF A BRIEF, GET-ACQUAINTED MEETING
COULD BE ARRANGED FOR HIM WITH VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT MONDALE WHEN THE
LATTER VISITS EUROPE IN LATE JANUARY. THORN SAID HE WOULD GLADLY
TRAVEL TO BRUSSELS FOR A MEETING, WHICH COULD OCCUR ON THE SIDELINES
OF THE VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S VISIT TO NATO HEADQUARTERS.

2. COMMENT: AS VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT MONDALE IS UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE,
THORN PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN EUROPEAN COUNCILS AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE
SMALLER EEC AND NATO COUNTRIES. HE ALSO ENJOYS CONSIDERABLE INTER-
NATIONAL
STATURE AS A FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
THORN IS A SHREWD POLITICIAN, EXTREMELY WELL INFORMED ON EUROPEAN
POLITICS AND A CONSISTENTLY HONEST AND OUTSPOKEN FRIEND OF THE UNITED
STATES. I BELIEVE EARLY CONTACT AND CULTIVATION OF THORN BY
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THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION WOULD PAY HANDSOME
DIVIDENDS. IF VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT MONDALE PLANS ANY BILATERALS
DURING HIS VISIT TO BRUSSELS, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT A MEET-
ING WITH THORN BE SCHEDULED. MOREOVER, EVEN IF NO OTHER
BILATERALS ARE PLANNED, A BRIEF 15-30 MINUTE MEETING WITH
THORN WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND USEFUL, IN MY VIEW, AS A MEANS
OF HIGHLIGHTING THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S INTEREST IN THE SMALL

AS WELL AS THE LARGER EEC AND NATO COUNTRIES.

3. I PROMISED THE PRIME MINISTER THAT I WOULD FORWARD HIS
REQUEST THROUGH STATE DEPARTMENT CHANNELS AND WOULD LET HIM
KNOW THE RESPONSE. WOULD APPRECIATE AN ANSWER AS SOON AS
THE QUESTION HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT
AND THOSE INVOLVED IN PLANNING HIS TRIP. GINN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LUXEMB00043
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770011-0826
Format: TEL
From: LUXEMBOURG
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770159/aaaabzve.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c15b70da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3616494
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER THORN'S REQUEST TO MEET VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT MONDALE DURING HIS EUROPEAN VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, LU, XG, US, (MONDALE, WALTER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c15b70da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009